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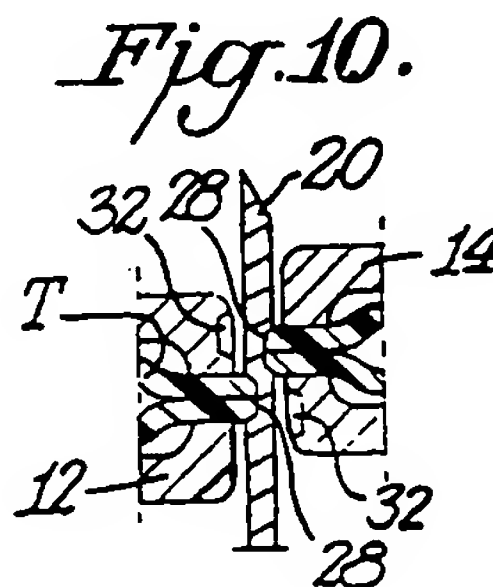
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(54) **Total containment welding of plastic tube.**

(57) A plastic tube is cut into two sections which are sealed closed by a sterile method wherein the tube is loaded into two clamping jaws (12,14) which flatten the tube (T). The tube is cut through the flattened section and the cut ends are heated to their molten state. A wafer (38) having wings (42) is located between the cut ends with the wings penetrating the lumens to create an internal plug as the wings force the molten material inwardly. The plugs add to the strength of the resultant seal. If desired, the molten ends are pressed into a cavity (32) which is cooled to a temperature below the molten temperature to seal the ends. The tubes are then removed from the cavity. When it is desired to connect individual tube sections the two tube sections are placed in clamp members in axial alignment slightly spaced from each other. The ends of the tube sections are melted by a melt/wipe process and the tube sections are then pressed into contact with each other to be welded into an integral tube. The same device is used for both the sterile disconnect

and connect procedures.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 5)
A	WO-A-83 01926 (W. YOUNG) * page 9, line 19 - page 10, line 9; figures * * page 12, line 21 - page 13, line 14 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 5)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 December 1993	Examiner Cordenier, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- * : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			